

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/899,039

Examiner

Russell Frejd

Applicant(s)

DURET ET AL.

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendments received 23-March-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Russell Frejd
RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

In re Application of: Duret et al.

Allowance of Application # 09/899,039

1. The following communication is in response to applicant's amendments to the Specification and Claims, received 23-March-2005.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. The instant application is directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention described in U.S. Patent No. 5,741,980, issued to Hill et al.. The improvement comprises a method and system for real-time estimation of a flow mode of a multiphase fluid stream at all points of a pipe, wherein structural parameters of the pipe and physical parameters of the fluid stream are used to form an input layer of a non-linear neural network, which is connected via weighting factors to an output layer quantifying estimations of the flow mode, wherein the flow mode is estimated from at least a velocity difference between the gas and liquid phases and a stratified flow fraction. This patentable distinction is included in each of the independent claims, nos. 1 and 6. The art of record, either individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the useful, concrete and tangible <real-time estimation of a flow mode of a multiphase fluid stream at all points of a pipe> having the corresponding structure which is disclosed in the amended specification and equivalents thereof at least at page 7, line 20 through page 11, line 17, and Figures 1-3. In view of the foregoing, the claims of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior art.

In re Application of: Duret et al.

Response Guidelines

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

3.1 Any response to the Examiner in regard to this allowance should be

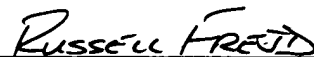
directed to: Russell Frejd, telephone number (571) 272-3779, Monday-Friday from 0530 to 1400 ET, or the examiner's supervisor, Jean Homere, telephone number (571) 272-3780. Inquires of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group Receptionist (571) 272-2100.

mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

Date: 18-April-2005



**RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER**